appointments and disproportionate assets and if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) An Assistant Manager in National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) was sent on deputation to National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) in 1979 where he got absorbed w.e.f. 27-6-1983 as Deputy Manager. He was appointed in NAFED w.e.f. 8-10-1987 as Deputy Manager on an-Ex-cadre post with the approval of the Executive Committee of NAFED which is the competent authority under the Bye-laws of NAFED. As per statement of immovable property as on 17-4-1989 submitted by the said Officer, he jointly owns with his wife a DDA flat of LIG in New Delhi. He tendered his resignation on 29-9-87 on the plea of unavoidable circumstances in NCCF. It has been stated by the NCCF that no enquiry was initiated against him. NCCF and NAFED are National Level Cooperative Federations registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 who are competent to handle the service matters of the staff appointed by them.

(d) In view of answer to (a) to (c) above, the question of Government enquiring into these matters does not arise.

Minority Status to Jains

421. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindu, New Delhi dated the 17th June, 1989 under the caption, 'Move to give minority Status to Jains'; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b) Government has seen the news item appearing in the Hindu of the 17th June, 1989. No such proposal to accord minority status to the Jain community is under consideration of Government.

Extension for telecast of TV serial 'Mahabharat'

422. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the producers of Mahabharat serial have asked for extension beyond the original schedule; and

(b) if so, what are the details there of and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Producer of the serial 'Mahabharat' has aksed for extension of this serial. Since it is felt that the producer is not able to complete the epic story in 52 episodes, the Government is agreeable to extend this serial by some more episodes.

Financial Assistance for construction of Godowns in Andhra Pradesh

423. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided to Andhra Pradesh for the construction of godowns by Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation during the last three years;

(b) whether the Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation has asked

for more financial assistance for constructing its own godowns and other infrastructural facilities;

(c) if so, the amount of assistance asked for; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) This Department does not operate any scheme for providing assitance for construction of godowns to States or their Corporations except for the north-eastern States, Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Andhra Pradesh Government was informed of the position when a request was earlier received from them for financial assistance for construction of godowns at Mandal headquarters.

This Department has not, therefore provided any financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh Government for construction of godowns by the Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation. The Department has also not received any request from the Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation for financial assistance for construction of godowns.

Number of Persons Registered with Employment Exchanges

424. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered unemployed, skilled, semi-skilled, matriculates, under-matriculates, graduates, post-graduates, doctors, engineers and scientists in the country, statewise, as on the 1st January, 1983 and the 1st May, 1989;

(b) the number of factories closed as on the 1st January, 1983 and 1st May, 1989 and the number of workers rendered surplus due to closures of the factories;

(c) the number of the factories out of the above closed down due to lock-outs, lay-offs, closures and strikes;

(d) the number of workers rendered jobless due to lock-outs, closures, lay-offs and strikes; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to solve the unemployment problem caused by strikes, lay-offs and closure of factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHA KRISHAN MALAVIYA: (a) to (d) Based on the latest available information statement-I (*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure no. 27) giving statewise number of job seekers on the live registers of Employment Exchanges by different categories and statement-II (*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 28) giving number of workers affected by strikes, lock-outs, closures, lay-offs and retrenchments are attached.

(e) The Government have been maintaining a close and continuous watch on the industrial relations situation in the country. The IndustrialRelation Machinery both at the Centre and in the States are taking steps to resolve disputes and reduce work stoppages through preventive mediation, conciliation and arbitration. Strikes, lock-outs, closures & lay-offs are regulated under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

In respect of closed units the Central and the State Governments have taken a series of steps to provide reliefs and concessional financial assistance through appropriate rehabilitation packages drawn up by the banks and Financial institutions for restarting these units.